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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0010



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Oscar L. AVANT et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2876  
)  
Application No.: 09/651,323 ) Examiner: Ahshik KIM  
)  
Filed: August 31, 2000 )  
)  
For: APPARATUS AND METHODS )  
FOR IDENTIFYING A MAILPIECE )  
USING AN IDENTIFICATION )  
CODE )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RECEIVED  
JUL 29 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action dated March 29, 2002, the period for reply having been extended for one month by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend  
Please ~~cancel~~ claims 1, 18, 26, and 36 follows:

1. (Amended) A method of identifying a mailpiece in a mailpiece sorting system, using an identification code corresponding to an identification file, comprising the steps of:

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*A1*  
*B1*

marking the mailpiece with the identification code that uniquely corresponds to the mailpiece on the back of the mailpiece;

creating the identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

using the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system.

*A2*  
*B2*

18. (Amended) A system for identifying a mailpiece in a mailpiece sorting system, using an identification code corresponding to an identification file, comprising:

a marking component configured to mark the mail piece with the identification code that uniquely corresponds to the mailpiece on the back of the mailpiece;

creating component configured to create the identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

a using component configured to use the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system.

*A3*  
*B3*

35. A system for identifying a mailpiece in a mailpiece sorting system, using an identification code corresponding to an identification file, comprising:

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